

In the claims:

On page 13, cancel lines 1-4, and substitute the following left-hand justified heading therefor:

CLAIMS

- 5 Please cancel claims 1-8, without prejudice, and substitute the following claims therefor:

9. A method for determining a tone ringing frequency, the method comprising the steps of:

- 10 forming a ZC signal from a tone ringing signal by comparing the tone ringing signal with a threshold, the ZC signal having a succession of alternately rising and falling edges between two ZC signal values;

 measuring a respective time duration between adjacent rising and falling edges of the ZC signal;

- 15 comparing the measured time duration with a predetermined time duration limit value;

 defining an evaluation start time if the measured time duration is greater than or equal to the predetermined time duration limit value, the evaluation start time being an instant of a subsequent edge;

- 20 defining an evaluation stop time if the measured time duration with an identical ZC signal value to a next-but-one instance is greater than or equal to the time duration limit value, the evaluation stop time being the instant of the subsequent edge; and

 determining the tone ringing frequency based on a measured time difference between the evaluation start time and the evaluation stop time.

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10. A method for determining a tone ringing frequency as claimed in claim 9, the method further comprising the steps of:

 defining a monitoring time window for determining the tone ringing frequency; and

- 30 discontinuing time measuring if a time measured since the evaluation start time lies outside the monitoring time window.

11. A method for determining a tone ringing frequency as claimed in claim 9, the method further comprising the step of:

defining the predetermined time duration limit value as a constant.

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12. A method for determining a tone ringing frequency as claimed in claim 9, the method further comprising the steps of:

defining a value which is as great as possible as the predetermined time duration limit value, with which an attempt to define the evaluation start time is commenced; and

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reducing the predetermined time duration limit value in accordance with a predetermined algorithm if the evaluation start time cannot be defined after a certain time.

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13. An apparatus for determining a tone ringing frequency, comprising:
a ZC signal generator for forming a ZC signal from a tone ringing signal by comparing the tone ringing signal with a threshold, the ZC signal having a succession of alternately rising and falling edges between two ZC signal values;

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a measuring part for measuring a respective time duration between adjacent rising and falling edges of the ZC signal;

a comparison part for comparing the measured time duration with a predetermined time duration limit value;

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a defining part for defining an evaluation start time if the measured time duration is greater than or equal to the predetermined time duration limit value, the evaluation start time being an instant of a subsequent edge, and for defining an evaluation stop time if the measured time duration with an identical ZC signal value to a next-but-one instance is greater than or equal to the time duration limit value, the evaluation stop time being the instant of the subsequent edge; and

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a frequency-determining part for determining the tone ringing frequency based on a measured time difference between the evaluation start time and evaluation stop time.

14. An apparatus for determining a tone ringing frequency as claimed in claim 13, wherein the defining part further defines a monitoring time window for determining the tone ringing frequency and discontinues time measurement if a time measured since the evaluation start time lies outside the monitoring time window.

15. An apparatus for determining a tone ringing frequency as claimed in claim 13, wherein the predetermined time duration limit value is defined as a constant.

16. An apparatus for determining a tone ringing frequency as claimed in claim 13, wherein the defining part further defines a value which is as great as possible at the time duration limit value, with which an attempt to define the evaluation start time is commenced, the predetermined time duration limit value being reduced in accordance with a predetermined algorithm if the evaluation start time cannot be defined after a certain time.

REMARKS

The present amendment makes editorial changes and corrects typographical errors in the specification, which includes the Abstract, in order to conform the specification to the requirements of United States Patent Practice. No new matter is added thereby. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version With Markings To Show Changes Made”**.

In addition, the present amendment cancels original claims 1-8 in favor of new claims 9-16. Claims 9-16 have been presented solely because the revisions by red-lining and underlining which would have been necessary in claims 1-8 in order to present those claims in accordance with preferred United States Patent Practice would have been too extensive, and thus would have been too burdensome. The present amendment is intended for clarification purposes only and not for substantial reasons related to patentability pursuant to 35 USC §§101, 102, 103 or